

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



Reply to Attn of:

February 29, 2008

LS01(AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ William J. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Approval for MSFC Employees with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend a Launch Reception Sponsored by Applied Geo Technologies

In accordance with 5 CFR. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Certain MSFC employees with senior institutional or project responsibilities have been invited to attend a launch reception sponsored by Applied Geo Technologies at the Courtyard by Marriott, Cocoa Beach, Florida, on Sunday, March 9, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This event is to be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-123 at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of aerospace industry representatives, and federal and state elected officials. The hot hors d'oeuvres, which will be provided by Applied Geo Technologies, are valued at approximately \$10 per person. Approximately 150 individuals have been invited to attend the reception. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

Applied Geo Technologies is a contractor company that is currently involved in laboratory services at Stennis Space Center. Currently, Applied Geo Technologies does not have any contracts with the Marshall Space Flight Center. Some MSFC personnel invited to attend this event may in the future, have extensive involvement in matters relating to Applied Geo Technologies' business interests. The invited personnel include the MSFC Center Director and the Deputy Center Director. These employees are similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional or project responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future Applied Geo Technologies contracts.

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional and project leaders at the pre-launch reception is in the interests of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of these senior NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with national, state, and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional and project leaders attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. Free attendance by employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors is addressed in a separate determination.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Annette Metcalf Coffel at 256-544-0025.



William J. Bierbower  
Chief Counsel